20160805 Daniel 1:1-2 God has no Grandchildren

Week 1 – God has no grandchildren. The Believer in Babylon understands that You reap what you Sow

Welcome to Union Grove Baptist Church. - Belivers have met regularly in this place since around 1844. People have been drawn to this place and have put their faith and trust in Jesus in this place for 172 years. Who knows how many hundreds of people have come to faith on these grounds, and we heard two weeks ago how converts would go from here to Yarboro Lake to be baptized. Dugald McAlpine dedicated these three acres to the Lord, so here we are today for one reason: To worship God and to glorify His precious son Jesus. And give me an "Amen" if you think God is not through with this place that was given to His glory.

Thank you for calling me two weeks ago to serve as your interim pastor. I consider it to be the highest and most sacred calling on earth. Thank you for entrusting yourselves to my leadership and to my teaching of the Word. As we begin our adventure together, I would ask each of you to join me in pledging ourselves to the Lord and to one another to:

Be Prepared - In Paul's 2 Letter to the young pastor Timothy he said, **5** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Prayed up - having asked the Holy Spirit to guide you and me through the scriptures we will study Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call upon me and I will answer thee and show the great and mighty things which thou knowest not.

Pure - let's keep our minds, bodies, and souls yielded to God's work in our lives. Psalm 119:11 Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

Let's start our journey together:

Please stand as we will do each time we read a portion of God's Word as an assembly

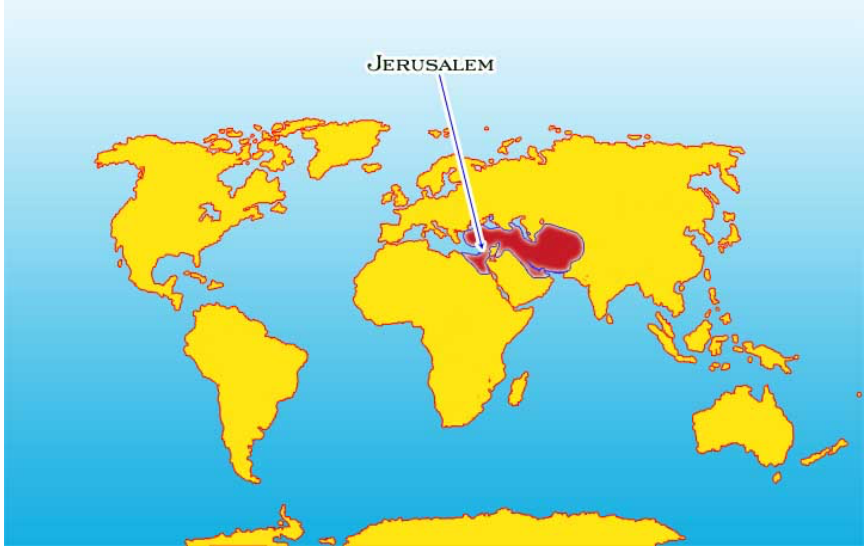
DANIEL Chapter 1

The Choice Young Men

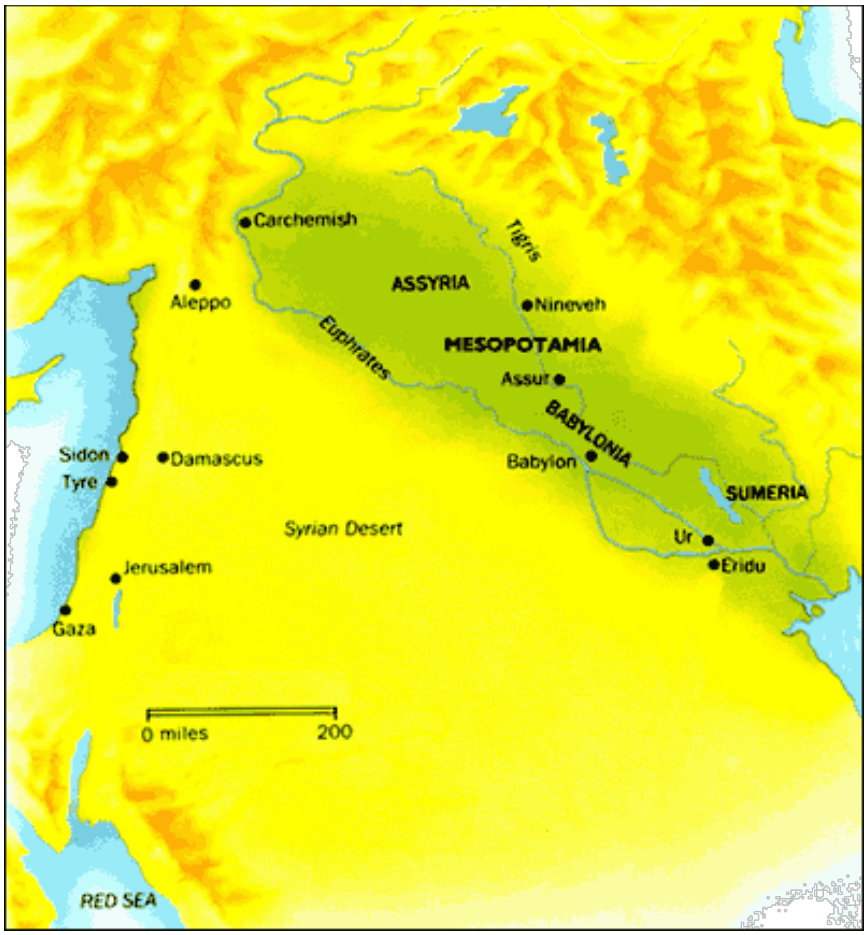
1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
2 The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god. [1]

1 John 1:9 As you open your Bible to glean truth from God's Word, take a moment to silently confess your sins and ask God to illumine you by the power of His Holy Spirit to see new things in this exciting book. Do this each time you sit down to feast on His Word. You will not be disappointed.

Background: Where in the World is Babylon



[1] *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.



Here we go:

In early May 2013, there were several events going on in the news. There was a trial going on in Pennsylvania in which a doctor had done unspeakable horrors in running an abortion mill. It was horrific, but news agencies were saying little about the story. About that same time an NBA player "came out" and publicly declared that he was gay. The president never said a word about the trial in PA, but he took time out of his day to call the sports player and to congratulate him. I observed that there was more outpouring of emotion expressed in the USA that day concerning the NBA player than emotion that Dr. Gosnell had committed horrible abominations and acts (killing multitudes of unborn babies with scissors and other instruments of death.) An alarm bell went off in my soul and I realized that Christ-Followers in America have not been taken into captivity TO Babylon…… rather we find that we are now IN BABYLON. We now are in a society and culture with values hostile to our own.

America is a great nation and it has been blessed by God in an unprecedented way. But where are we now in the balance? Where are we now in God's assessment? What is our future? What will happen to us? In the weeks and months ahead I will be taking you on a journey through the Book of Daniel. Perhaps some of the answers to those questions are to be found in this book.

My job as pastor is to take a part of God's Word and to prayerful ask God what He would show each of us through that passage. The Book of Daniel was written approximately 2,500 years ago. Yet it is absolutely relevant in the life of the Believer in the world today. It is particularly relevant to the Believer in America who finds himself or herself now living in a society that has in great part rejected the Judaeo-Christian principles upon which this country was founded.

Like Daniel, we as American Believers are now in a society that is ruled by those who hold alternate values. American society is increasingly hostile to Biblical principles and virtues. Let's begin our biblical journey back in the days of King David. Those were the days of Jewish power and glory. Israel exerted its strength on the society around it. Those are what I like to refer to as the times of David.

As Israel progressively fell into sin and as she chose rejection of the one true God, she eventually fell under God's judgment, and she was taken into captivity in Babylon. The times of David were over. The times of Daniel had begun. During the times of Daniel, we see Jews who are no longer in power, having great influence on the hostile society in which they were living. Their institutional power decreased, but their spiritual influence and power increased because of their relationship with God.

Watching Daniel and studying his thoughts, words, deeds, habits, and character helps us to unlock the mysteries of his influence and legacy. Daniel's account is the perfect guide-book to being a powerful Christ-Follower in our present day.

Background: God had been preparing Daniel's life just as he prepares each of our lives. Dr David Jeremiah reminds us that God is always more concerned about the worker than He is the work. While we focus on the ministry, God focuses on the minister, because God knows that if a man is what he ought to be, then what he does will be right."

Daniel was born in the days of the "good King Josiah". Josiah was the first good King in Judah in over 57 years. Before Josiah, his father and grandfather were wicked people. His father Amon was so wicked that his own slaves conspired to kill him. And then Amon's young son Josiah was crowned at the ripe old age of 8 years old, and scripture tells us that "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord and he walked in the ways of his father David".
(2 Kings 22:2)

Under Josiah a huge revival broke out and Josiah began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the filth that his father and grandfather had brought into the kingdom. Josiah's heart broke as he saw the temple in shambles and he undertook to rebuild it, and then in the process they found something that had been lost for several generations: The Book of the Law.

Josiah tore down idols, he wiped out homosexuality, and he had the idolatrous priests executed. He got rid of the fortune tellers and he brought purity back into the land. It was so wonderful that in the book of 2 Kings in chapter twenty-three it tells us that a Passover was held **"such as surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah."**

There was a young prince who stood by and watched all of this happen. That young prince was Daniel. God showed Daniel in those days of Josiah how a person of God stands for righteousness.

And now we turn to Josiah's son, Jehoiakim.

The text tells us that in the 3rd year of his reign, Nebuchadnazzer came and laid seige to the city of Jerusalem.

And the text continues, "***2 The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God;***

So, the question should arise in your mind, "If the Jews are God's chosen people, why has he allowed them to come under attack?"

Did you know that God can use unbelievers to chastise His people?
The Book of Chronicles gives us more detail about Jehoiakim

> *2 Chronicles 36*
> *Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God. 6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze chains to take him to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the articles of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon. 8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.* [2]

[2] *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. 1995 (2 Ch 36:5–8). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

God used the pagan Babylonian King Nebuchadnazzer to bring judgment on His people.

The Hebrew is interesting because the text communicates that God “gave” "natan" Judah to Nebuchadnazzer. Nebuchadnazzer didn't take the City of Jerusalem in His own power. God GAVE him Jehoiakim and the City.

And as a side note the reason they knew about those temple treasures is because Josiah's great-grandfather, the prideful King Hezekiah, had taken the Babylonians on a show & tell brag-fest 100 years before and showed them everything We read about it in 2 Kings Chapter 20 *"Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in his storehouses--the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine olive oil--his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them."*

One of the fascinating things about the Bible is that it contains multilayered truth that can be peeled back like an onion revealing deeper and deeper truths.

Think about what we've learned in two short verses of the Bible in the last few minutes.

SLIDE

1) GOD HAS NO GRAND CHILDREN - each of us is solely responsible for our relationship with God. Jehoiakim had a precious good and godly father, but his life was a wreck of wickedness.

Secondly,

2) WE WILL REAP WHAT WE SOW - Hezekiah foolishly sowed pride and 100 years later, the harvest was plunder. Jehoiakim sowed evil, and his life reaped judgment.

Let's talk about the GRAND CHILDREN first:

The relationship that your parents had or didn't have with the Lord does not determine your relationship with Him. You derive no spiritual credits because your dad was a deacon, a pastor, a bishop, or because your mom was a very religious person who went to Mass every Sunday. You stand alone before your creator. The question then is what is the thing that will please your creator?

I guess because I'm over 60 it is becoming clearer to me that I will indeed stand before my creator. Each person must have a personal encounter with their creator. In Paul's letter to the Romans in Ch 14 verse 12, he says, "**12** So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God."

The irony is that any list of "good things you might do" has zero relevance on your eternal destiny. Please don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that your works are not important. Biblical truth tells us that we are not saved by our works, rather we are saved to do good works. (Eph 2:8,9,10) (SEE THE VERSE FOR THE MONTH)

When we stand before God at the judgment the relevant question will be "And what did you do about my Jesus?"

The prophet Isaiah didn't even know who he was writing about when he said, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;*
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Some of you were raised by parents who communicated to you a "performance based" method of salvation. What I'm saying is that you believed a lie that there were certain things you needed to do to find your way to heaven. That is a lie from the pit of hell. Scripture tells us it is Jesus plus nothing. If we add good deeds to Jesus we make a mockery of the death, burial, and resurrection. No one can do enough good deeds to find their way to heaven. If you can, then there is no need for Jesus.

All of your life, Jesus has been desperately trying to find His way to you. The writer of Hebrews explains, "For without faith, it is impossible to please Him". That's it guys. That's all. It is faith in Jesus + nothing. Luke tells us in Acts 16:31 that we must "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and we will be saved." So remember, God has no grandchildren. Your encounter with him is a solo encounter.

2) YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW - lets look again at the 2nd truth we've learned this morning. What are you sowing into your life?

Josiah sowed righteousness and he remained as King of Judah. Jehoiakim sowed wickedness and God brought judgment on him and his kingdom.

Galatians 6:7-10 Says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ***8*** *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* ***9*** *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* ***10*** *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

a) I've already talked about the test of faith that brings a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus. You may know Christ, but you continue to sow to the flesh.

b) John 10:10 "I have come that you might have abundant life." Christianity 9-5 did a survey and found that 50% of Christ-Followers have no joy in their lives. So what is the problem. Let's talk about what we're sowing.

You are a spirit - a soul - and a body

i. When you're in Christ you become a new creature. He makes your spirit to be alive. (2 Cor 5:17). It is your status as a spiritual being that enables you to relate with God.

SLIDE

ii. Secondly your soul (intellect, knowledge, and wisdom-personality) is the part of you that relates to other people: It has three God installed needs: to be safe - secure - significant (I talked to you about 3 basic needs: If you seek to meet these basic needs by anything but God you enter the realm of the flesh and you sow to the flesh ultimately losing your joy. Whether you have "good flesh" or "bad flesh" the flesh sets its desire against the spirit. (Galatians 5:17) Good flesh might include: Church attendance,

How do we sow to the Spirit? Submitting your mind, will, and emotions to Him and His daily plan for you life. It is a daily surrender. It is saying, "Lord God move in my life today and let my mind, will, and emotions line up with your desires for my life." The fruits of the Spirit are: